

[Edward H. Bly]

ES [?] Dup

FORM A CIRCUMSTANCES OF INTERVIEW

NAME OF WORKER Albert burks ADDRESS 239 So. 20th.

DATE November 23, 1938 SUBJECT American Folk-lore

1. Name and address of informant - Edward H. Bly, 3211 So. 29th
2. Date and time of Interview, November 24, 1938, - 10:30 to 12:00 A.M. 2:00 to 3:00 P.M.
3. Place of Interview, Residence
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant. Personal acquaintance.
5. Home and address of person, if any, accompanying you, None.
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. Small modern cottage, Interview took place in parlor, Neatly furnished with old time over-stuffed parlor suit.

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 So. 20th

DATE November 25, 1938 SUBJECT American Folk-lore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Edward H. Bly, 321 So. 20th

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1. Ancestry- Negro Mother , Irish Father.
2. Place and date of birth, Columbus Georgia- February 17, 1871.
3. Family, Wife.
4. Place lived in, with dates. Traveled all over the country until 1905. Moved to St. Joseph , Mo. until 1920; came to Lincoln that year and made my home until present, 1938.
5. Education, with dates. Seventh grade. Educated at Montgomery ,Alabama.
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates, Common laborer, and portering.
7. Special skills and interests. Radio and reading
8. Community and religious activities, African Methodist Episcopal.
9. Description of Informant, About 5 ft. 9 in. Weight about 160 , lbs. light brown complexioned, bald headed, Penetrating coal black eyes.
10. Other points gained in interview.

Form C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 So 20th.

Date November 23, 1938 SUBJECT American Folk-lore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT 321 So. 20th.

"I was born in Columbus Georgia, February 17, 1871. When I was quite young my folks moved to Montgomery Alabama and that was my home until 1898. I never saw my father,

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he was a plantation owner and my mother had been one of his slaves. She stayed on after she was freed and shortly after I was born my father died.

On November, 29, 1898, I enlisted in the army and seen service in the Spanish American War, and I had three years of actual service.

Although I am not what you would call superstitious, something happened in last battle that I was in that did give me kind of a superstition which still remains with me.

We was stationed at San Pedro at Mr. Ariad in the Philippine Islands. There was companies B-K-L., of the twenty fifth infantry. We had orders to capture a fort and as we made our advance came upon to white soldiers badly injured by the snipers. They told us that the fort was eight hundred strong and it would be impossible to capture it. We did succeed in capturing the garrison and in the retreat I was one of about five men that were injured by the snipers. I was struck in the shoulder and remember as I fell there was a black cat scurrying through the brush in front of me. And later when we were on shipboard there was an awful bad storm in the China sea. And during the storm while the 2 ship was a rolling and all hands were at work. I happened to walk down a dark passage way and stumbled over a black cat and broke my finger.

Right now if I see a black cat is going to cross my path I would rather go back a block rather than let him do it. I know it sounds silly but I just can't get rid of the notion that black cats are bad luck to me.